

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled).
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 2,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:
an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;
wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,
wherein the secondary airbag has two tubular positioning cushions which are connected with the main airbag so that, upon inflation of the positioning cushions the positioning of the main airbag takes place, and
wherein the two tubular positioning cushions are configured so that during inflation the cushions deploy laterally from the area of the ~~ear~~ vehicle seat on the left and right of the occupant's head toward ~~the~~ a roof of the vehicle and draw the main airbag into a position between the head restraint and the occupant's head.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 2,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:

an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;

wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,

wherein the secondary airbag has two tubular positioning cushions which are connected with the main airbag so that, upon inflation of the positioning cushions the positioning of the main airbag takes place, and

wherein the two tubular positioning cushions are connected by a middle cushion which upon inflation deploys in the area between the head restraint and the occupant's head.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the thickness of the middle cushion is so small that, when the secondary airbag fills with gas, the occupant's head is moved only slightly forward in the direction of forward travel of the vehicle.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4, wherein the middle cushion is configured to have a thickness after inflation that causes movement of the occupant's head no more than 15 cm in the direction of forward travel of the vehicle.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 2,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:

an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;

wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head

restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,

wherein the secondary airbag has two tubular positioning cushions which are connected with the main airbag so that, upon inflation of the positioning cushions the positioning of the main airbag takes place, and

wherein each of the positioning cushions include a lower portion which at least when in ~~the~~ an inflated state is disposed at the level of ~~the~~ an occupant's neck and head area and extends from ~~the~~ a driver's seat toward ~~the~~ a vehicle roof, and an upper portion, which at least in the inflated state is disposed above the occupant's head area and is angled forward in the direction of travel with respect to the lower portion.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the two positioning cushions are joined together in ~~their~~ a lower portion by the middle cushion and in ~~their~~ an upper portion by ~~the~~ an-upper portion of the main airbag.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7, wherein the length of ~~the~~ an upper portion of the positioning cushions is sufficient to shield the occupant from ~~the~~ a roof rail of the vehicle.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7, wherein ~~the~~ an upper portion of the main airbag is configured as a chute so that the passenger's head is guided along a path as the main airbag deploys toward the vehicle roof.

11. (Currently Amended) The device of the claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ a fluid connection between ~~the~~ a main cushion and ~~the~~ a secondary cushion is provided by two connecting ports.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the two connecting ports connect the main airbag to the two positioning cushions.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 2,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:

an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;

wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,

wherein the secondary airbag has two tubular positioning cushions which are connected with the main airbag so that, upon inflation of the positioning cushions the positioning of the main airbag takes place, and

wherein the two positioning cushions are configured to expand further than ~~the~~ a middle cushion in the direction of forward travel of the vehicle.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the secondary airbag comprises: two substantially identical airbag layers, each layer having an axis of symmetry, wherein the two layers are joined together at ~~their~~ an outer margin, and

at least two ~~strip-like~~ strip-shaped connecting portions connecting the two airbag layers and subdividing the secondary airbag into three portions, wherein ~~the~~ a middle portion forms the middle cushion and ~~the~~ two outer portions form the positioning cushions, and wherein the secondary airbag is configured so that the middle cushion and ~~the~~ two lower portions of the positioning cushions are arranged substantially parallel to ~~the~~ a mirror-image axis, while ~~the~~ two upper portions of the positioning cushions are turned at a given angle ~~perpendicular~~ to the axis of symmetry.

15. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the given angle is approximately 45 degrees.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the two ~~strip-like~~ strip-shaped connecting areas connecting the two airbag layers are each formed by a connecting seam.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 14, wherein the two airbag layers are bonded together at ~~their~~ outer edges.

18. (Original) The device of claim 14, wherein the two airbag layers are joined to one another at least partially near the axis of symmetry thereby forming two tubular middle ducts in the middle cushion.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 18, wherein the middle ducts merge conically toward one another in ~~their~~ an upper end area.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 19, wherein the margin of the two airbag layers is at least partially of wavy shape in ~~the~~ an upper portion of the middle cushion.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~21~~ 24, wherein the two ~~strip-like~~ strip-shaped connecting portions are formed in each case by at least one of sewing and ~~and/or~~ bonding.

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~claims~~ 21 24, wherein the two airbag layers are at least one of sewn and ~~and/or~~ bonded together at their outer margin.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of any of claims 21,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:

an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;

wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so

that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,

wherein the main airbag includes two airbag layers which are joined together at their an outer margin and the main airbag is subdivided into a lower cushion portion and an upper cushion portion, the upper cushion portion being subdivided by two strip-shaped connecting portions joining together the two airbag layers and creating three tubular portions which form the a chute of the main airbag, and

wherein the two inside margins of the upper portion of the positioning cushions and the lateral upper margin of the main cushion are joined together by at least one of sewing ~~and-and/or~~ bonding.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 24, wherein the two ~~strip-like~~ strip-shaped connecting areas in ~~the~~ an upper cushion portion of the main airbag lead each into a circular seam and the main airbag and the secondary airbag are disposed to one another so that, in ~~the~~ an at least approximately inflated state of the main and secondary airbag, ~~the~~ middle ducts of the secondary airbag are disposed between the passenger's head and ~~the~~ two seams and shield the seams from the head.

26. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 24, wherein ~~the~~ a lower cushion portion of the main airbag has a curved seam that determines the thickness and the shape of the main airbag ~~as regards the desired~~ with respect to acceptable bending of the occupant's neck and head.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 4, wherein the middle cushion of the secondary airbag is made stronger, substantially in the area deploying between the head restraint and ~~the~~ an upper end of the occupant's seat, in comparison to the remaining area of the middle cushion.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of claim 2,~~ A safety device for an occupant sitting in a vehicle seat comprising:

an airbag positioned to deploy between the head of the occupant and a head restraint of the seat, wherein the airbag includes a main airbag in fluid communication with a secondary airbag;

wherein the secondary airbag is configured to substantially fill with inflation gas before the main airbag fills with inflation gas, and wherein the airbag is configured so that when the secondary airbag inflates the main bag is positioned between the head restraint and the neck and nape area of the occupant so that the main bag inflates to bend the head and the neck of the occupant toward the chest,

wherein the secondary airbag has two tubular positioning cushions which are connected with the main airbag so that, upon inflation of the positioning cushions the positioning of the main airbag takes place, and

wherein the secondary ~~bag~~ airbag is secured to the vehicle seat at two fastening points, wherein the fastening points are located at ~~the~~ bottom outer margins of the positioning cushions.

30. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the main airbag and the secondary airbag are connected together by adhesive.

31. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein the safety device is configured to inflate the airbag in the event that the rear-end of the vehicle is collided with by a second vehicle having a velocity that exceeds the velocity of the vehicle by more than a predetermined amount.

32. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 30, ~~wherein bonding areas between airbag layers and between the main and secondary airbags are filled at least partially by silicone adhesives.~~ further comprising a silicone adhesive for sealing the airbag.